EU-ABC DELEGATION VISITS LAOS – MEETS GOVERNMENT TO DISCUSS 2016 AEC PRIORITIES

On 3rd and 4th February an EU-ASEAN Delegation met a series of Ministers from the Lao PDR Government to discuss the plans for the Laos Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2016 and various measures to speed up progress on the AEC, particularly in the area of trade facilitation across the South East Region.

Meetings were held with H.E. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry & Commerce; H.E. Thipphakone Chanthavongsa, Vice Minister of Finance; H.E. Dr. Bounchanh Sinthavong, Minister of Public Works and Transport; and, Phetsathaphone Keovongvichith, Director General of the International Relations Department of the Bank of the Lao PDR.

Topics covered included Connectivity in ASEAN, and in particular improving mechanisms for the movement of goods across borders, simplifying customs regimes, changes to the Lao PDR Excise Tax regime, and measures to increase private sector dialogue throughout the region as envisioned in the AEC 2025 Blueprint.

The EU-ABC Delegation was led by Executive Director, Chris Humphrey, and comprised of representatives from DHL, KPMG, Bosch, Allianz and the European Chamber of Commerce in the Lao PDR.
EU-ABC HOLDS SUCCESSFUL DIALOGUE WITH ASEAN BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL – AGREES TO CLOSER COLLABORATION

On 3rd February the EU-ABC had its annual exclusive dialogue session with the ASEAN Business Advisory Council during the ASEAN BAC’s first meeting of the year under its new Chairman, Oudet Souvannavong.

The session covered the plans of both organisations for 2016 and their respective advocacy programmes designed to assist ASEAN and the Lao PDR Chair with progressing the ASEAN Economic Community during the remainder of the year. Both sides agreed on the need for greater collaboration and co-ordination on matters of mutual interest and understanding.

2ND ASEAN BAC CONFERENCE ON AEC 2025

On 5th February in Vientiane the ASEAN BAC held its second conference on the topic of the post-2015 Agenda for the AEC. The event was co-organised by the Lao National Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the European Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Lao PDR, with support from GIZ. The EU-ABC was a supporting partner.

Key topics discussed were increasing support for SMEs in the ASEAN Region and measures to help close the development gap between the ASEAN-6 and the CLMV Countries.

CONTACT US

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EU-ABC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Executive Board of the EU-ABC is very pleased to announce a number of new members of the Business Council.

Over the course of the last few months DHL, KPMG, Bayer, GSK and Syngenta have all agreed to join the Business Council expanding the number of business sectors covered by direct MNC membership.

For more information on the benefits of membership please contact us at info@eu-asean.eu

EU-ABC’S BUSINESS SENTIMENT SURVEY

At the end of February the EU-ABC will be launching its second edition of its annual Business Sentiment Survey in ASEAN.

As with the previous version all results will be reported on an anonymous basis and then presented to the ASEAN Economic Ministers in August this year. Further details of the Survey will be sent out to Members and others in due course.

Last year’s survey can be found at http://eu-asean.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/EU-ASEAN-Business-Sentiment-Survey-final-draft-online-only.pdf

For advertising opportunities in the 2016 Business Sentiment publication, please note the rates are as follow:

- Full page, inside front cover - SGD 1000.00
- Full page, back cover - SGD 1000.00
- Full page, inside booklet - SGD 500.00
- Half page, inside booklet - SGD 300.00

For further information please contact info@eu-asean.eu

EU-ABC IN THE NEWS

Trade-friendly Vietnam now offers far more than just low-cost labor

An Interview with EU-ABC Chairman, François Guibert.
The EU-ABC is very pleased to be an official supporting partner for the forthcoming EU-ASEAN CIO Forum which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 2nd March 2016.

**CIO Forum and Its Objectives**

The EU-ASEAN CIO Forum “Building the Digital Platform - Exchanging on ASEAN and EU Best Practices and Fostering toward Enhanced Collaboration” will bring together Chief Information Officers, ICT experts and policy makers from ASEAN and EU organisations (especially those based in ASEAN) with the objectives:

- To share the challenges, experiences and good practices on the role of Chief Information Officer in making use of digital platforms and maximizing their use;
- To promote ASEAN and ASEAN-EU ICT collaboration opportunities.
- The exchanges will lead to better understanding of the challenges, best practices and ways to go, and networking and cooperation opportunities.

The organizer of the CIO Forum is BPPT, the Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology of Republic of Indonesia, and co-organized in collaboration with the ASEAN CIO Association (ACIOA), in the framework of EU FP7 CONNECT2SEA project “Connecting ICT in Europe and South East Asia” ([www.connect2sea.eu](http://www.connect2sea.eu)).

For further details please visit: [http://www.connect2sea.eu/CIO-Forum-Building-the-Digital-Platform-ASEAN-EU-best-practices-exchange/articles/1.html](http://www.connect2sea.eu/CIO-Forum-Building-the-Digital-Platform-ASEAN-EU-best-practices-exchange/articles/1.html) or write to Svetlana Klessova, inno TSD (France), s.klessova@inno-group.com

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